(c) and (d) The per capita net availability of foodgrains as per latest economic survey, was 476.4 grams per day in 1990 and 474.2 grams in 1994. The estimates of 1994 are provisional and the difference of 2.2 grams is very marginal.

(e) Number of people suffering from hunger as on 1.7.1995 and during the last three years are not available.

Computer Software sectors in European Union and Japan

1848. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither the European Union nor Japan have agreed to open up their Computer Software sectors to foreign officials;

(b) whether U.S. has liberalised entry of Computer Software; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) As a part of the Uruguay Round Market Access Package on Services, the US, the European Union (EU) and Japan have undertaken to liberalise market access in the computer and related services sector. As far as access to foreign service providers in this sector is concerned, all three have undertaken to bind commitments on the entry of natural persons with commercial presence viz; intra-corporate transferes and business visitors.

In addition, the US and European Union have also undertaken to liberalise the entry of natural persons as service providers without commercial presence.

Loss of export revenue due to shortage of cranes to load foredgrains

1849. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing billions of dollars in export revenues because there are not enough cranes to load foodgrains into ships at major ports;

(b) whether the study carried out by the Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of science & Technology reveals that almost 40% of India's agricultural exportable surplus does not find its way into international markets due to inadequate infrastructure for transportation; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Expansion of exports has brought into focus infrastructural issues. Resort to any specific port in excessive measure for movement of the bulk of foodgrains of export cargo tends to cause congestion. Export of foodgrains, therefore, is being arranged through various ports, major and minor, unrestrained, *inter alia*, by hosting capacities.

(b) and (c) The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council's (TIFAC's) studies are in the context of containerisation technology and regrigerated transit. The Government export thrust places like emphasis on containerisation and movement of reefer cargoes.

मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगार

1850. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगारों की कुल संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) इन कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन की निर्धारित दर क्या है; और

(ग) न्यूनतम वेतन के उचित कार्यान्वयन हेतु सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी॰ए॰ संगमा): (क) मध्य प्रदेश में बीड़ी कर्मकारों की अनुमानित संख्या 6.60 लाख है।

(ख) एक हज़ार बीड़ियां लपेटने के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दर 14.10.93 से 22.50 रु॰ है।

(ग) न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम, 1948 के उपबंधों के प्रवर्तन के लिए राज्य सरकार समुचित प्राधिकारी है। तथापति, केन्द्रीय सरकार समय-समय पर राज्य सरकारों पर न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम, 1948 के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन हेतु जोर देती रही है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप राज्य सरकारों ने इस अधिनियम की कारगरता में सुधार करने के लिए विभिन्न उपाय किये हैं। इनमें प्रवर्तन तंत्र को सुदृढ़ किया जाना, कर्मकारों की जागरूकता में वृद्धि किया जाना, न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के उपबंधों का व्यापक प्रचार किया जाना, अधिनियम के उपबंधों के प्रवर्तन में राजस्व और सहयोग के रूप में ऐसे अन्य विभागों का सहयोग लिया जाना आदि शामिल है।

Cases pending before Board of Arbitration

1851. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases are pending before the Board of Arbitration for adjudication since long;

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases pending for more than three years;

(c) whether any time frame is prescribed for the disposal of these cases; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to prescribe or fix any time-schedule for the speedier disposal of cases pending before the Board?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Out of a total of 32 reference cases pending before the Board of Arbitration as on 1.8.1995, 10 are pending for more than 3 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The JCM Scheme does not prescribe any time limit for disposal of cases by the Board of Arbitration.

Import of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye

1852. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye being imported alongwith the value in Rupees during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the reduction in duty on caustic soda from 65% to 40% has adversely affected the domestic industry;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to help the industry to reduce the cost of production; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce customs duty on import of membrane cell plants, fuel oil used for power generation and the machinery for captive power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Import data of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto Feb.'95 are as under:—

Year	Quantity(in tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1993-94	1,17,281	4678.52
1994-95 (upto Feb.' 95)	59,352	2256.95

(Source : D.G.C.I & S, Calcutta)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1853. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes department-wise issued by various Ministries;

(b) whether the Central outlay incurred on such schemes in the States is debited under annual plan outlay of the States;

(c) whether actual outlay to be incurred on these schemes is kept in view by the Planning Commission while chalking out the outline of the plan outlay of various Ministries/ Departments;